

# **Homelessness Resources Fact Sheet**

## **Patrick-Murray Administration**

### **September 2012**

#### **Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)**

- FY 13 Budget: \$8.76M
- Caseload: minimum of 1,760 families
- RAFT is targeted to families with low or extremely low income that are most likely to become homeless without intervention.
- Offers flexible financial assistance up to \$4,000 in a 12 month period.
- Families can receive help to remain in their current housing or to move to a new housing situation.
- RAFT is administered by Housing Consumer Education Centers (HCECs) across the Commonwealth, and is one of many resources HCECs have available to assist families.

#### **HomeBASE**

- FY 13 Budget: \$83.3M
- Caseload: FY 13 Household Assistance: 2,997 (608 carryover from FY12);  
FY 13 Rental Assistance: 6,586 (leased in FY12)
- An alternative to shelter, HomeBASE is time-limited assistance designed to provide a housing solution to families who are at serious risk of homelessness.
- HomeBASE Household Assistance can be used to provide relocation assistance, short-term rental assistance, assistance with co-housing arrangements, or start-up funds for a new subsidized or unsubsidized unit.
- HomeBASE Rental Assistance, while not available in FY 13, was utilized by over 6500 families in FY 12. This includes families that were eligible for, but diverted from, shelter, and families that were rehoused from a shelter or hotel placement.
- HomeBASE is administered by 11 community-based organizations across the Commonwealth on behalf of DHCD.

#### **Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP)**

- FY 13 Budget: \$350,000
- Caseload: 583 clients in FY12, 636 in FY11, 479 in FY10
- TPP targets individuals and families where a disability is both present and directly related to the reason for eviction.
- TPP acts as a neutral party between landlord and tenant, and provides clinical consultation services to the Housing Court.

- TPP clinicians assess the reasons for the eviction, identify needed services, develop a treatment plan to maintain the tenancy, and monitor the case.
- If the tenancy cannot be preserved, TPP coordinates the tenant's transition to a more appropriate placement, preventing homelessness whenever possible.

### **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)**

- FY 12 Federal Budget: Prevention: \$1.53M;  
Rapid Rehousing: \$2M;  
Shelter Support: \$1.8M
- Projected Outcomes: Prevention: 942; Rapid Rehousing: 1000; Shelter Support: 356
- ESG is federal funding that provides support for shelter operations, homelessness prevention, and rapid re-housing for homeless families.
- DHCD's ESG allocation is awarded to providers across the Commonwealth to expand existing services and assist families and individuals outside of the state shelter and homelessness support system.

### **Homelessness Prevention and Rapid-Rehousing Program (HPRP)**

- Total budget: \$18.4M (federal)
- Caseload: 6785 persons in 3286 households from 2010-2012
- Part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.
- Funds were awarded to 20 sub-grantees across the Commonwealth.
- Funded programs included Prevention, Diversion, and Rapid Rehousing for families and individuals.
- HPRP officially ended in July 2012, and will not be available going forward in FY 13.

### **Supportive Housing**

- Governor Patrick signed into law An Act Relative to Community Housing and Services On March 22, 2012.
- The goal is to create up to 1,000 units of supportive housing by December 31, 2015.
- The law requires 18 named parties to draft and execute an MOU that includes an action plan to coordinate and procure services, capital subsidies, and operating subsidies.
- DHCD Undersecretary Aaron Gornstein and EOHHS Assistant Secretary Marilyn Chase will co-chair a working group to implement this legislation.
- This working group will draft and execute the MOU by the end of CY2012.

## **Race to the Top / EEC Collaboration**

- The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) was awarded \$50M in federal funds through the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge.
- EEC has partnered with DHCD to ensure that all children ages 0-5 in the Emergency Assistance system receive screening and referrals to appropriate early education resources.
- DHCD will hire an Early Education and Care Consultant to help carry out these tasks over the next three years.

## **Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness (ICHH)**

- ICHH is advancing five housing-first policy priorities to end homelessness among vulnerable populations:
  - (1) increasing access to housing resources for homeless families,
  - (2) creating the first statewide plan to prevent and end homelessness among veterans,
  - (3) improving the Commonwealth's response to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness,
  - (4) ending homelessness for unaccompanied youth, and
  - (5) launching a statewide supportive housing agenda.
- Each of these initiatives is in partnership with multiple state agencies and community-based partners, with the goal of fostering greater housing stability for homeless and at-risk households.
- In 2009 The Patrick-Murray Administration, under the auspices of the ICHH, launched ten Regional Networks to End Homelessness to develop and test innovative and collaborative approaches for preventing and ending homelessness across the Commonwealth.
- Between 2009 and 2011 Networks diverted 1,188 homeless families from shelter to housing, prevented another 13,083 families from becoming homeless in the first place, and rehoused 609 chronically homeless individuals.
- Regional Networks continue to bring local partners together to advance a common agenda to end homelessness in each community across the Commonwealth.

## **Social Innovations Financing**

- "Pay for success" contracts with providers will be used to fund innovative, effective services for the chronically homeless.
- The Commonwealth pays only for actual, rather than promised, results when specific performance targets are achieved.
- "Social impact bonds" allow 3<sup>rd</sup> party investors to supply the operating costs required to support pay for success contracts.
- Goals include permanent housing and supports for chronically homeless, and promotion of positive health outcomes for those housed such that acute medical care usage is significantly decreased.

## **Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (VASH) Vouchers**

- Caseload: 360 administered by DHCD or contracted agencies  
1522 total in MA via DHCD and other housing authorities
- VASH serves homeless veterans with disabilities and/or severe psychiatric and/or substance abuse disorders.
- VASH combines an allocation of Section 8/HCVP rental vouchers from HUD with ongoing case management and clinical services provided by Veterans Administration staff.
- Services include:
  - housing search assistance;
  - community-based management services;
  - outpatient health services;
  - hospitalization;
  - other services as needed.

## **Preservation of Public Housing**

- The Patrick-Murray Administration doubled funding for operating and capital subsidies for local housing authorities to sustain the 46,000 units of state-aided public housing that are home to 75,000 low-income residents.
- The Patrick-Murray Administration and local housing authorities have invested over \$100 million to increase the sustainability of our public housing stock through energy and water saving projects.
- The capital funds provided by the Patrick-Murray Administration support hundreds of public housing modernization projects each year.

## **Preservation and Production of Privately Owned Housing**

- Over the past five years, DHCD has helped finance nearly 12,000 units of affordable housing – about 2,300 units for households below 30% of Area Median Income.
- Since Chapter 40T was signed into law by Governor Patrick in 2009, the Commonwealth has protected 9,134 units of affordable housing for families and individuals across Massachusetts.

## **New Lease Program (Clearinghouse for Affordable Housing Units)**

- DHCD, private owners, property managers, and service providers have recently come together to develop a new clearinghouse system called *New Lease* that will make existing privately owned affordable apartments available to homeless families and to provide ongoing stabilization services once families are placed.
- The New Lease Program will be privately funded and is expected to be launched by the end of 2012. It will make available as many as 250 apartments over the next year.

## **Stabilization Services**

- Caseload: estimated 13,500 families
- Provided to families exiting or diverted from shelter to support successful tenancies.
- Case workers meet with families on a regular basis to assist families in meeting goals related to:
  - Lease compliance
  - Permanent housing search
  - Economic stability and development
  - Health, safety, and well-being for parents and children
- Stabilization staff is also responsible for ensuring that families comply with rehousing and stabilization plans.
- Families that do not comply can face termination from HomeBASE and the inability to access assistance in the future.

## **Home and Healthy for Good (HHG)**

- FY 13 Budget: \$1.4M
- Caseload: 582 people housed since inception in 2006
- HHG is a “Housing First” initiative that provides housing to chronically homeless individuals
- Tenants live in leased, independent apartments or shared living arrangements that are integrated into the community.
- Tenants have access to a broad range of comprehensive community-based services, including:
  - medical and mental health care
  - substance abuse treatment
  - case management
  - vocational training and life skills training
- By removing the barriers to housing, individuals are given an opportunity to deal with the complex health and life issues they face as tenants, rather than as clients of a prescribed system of care.

## **Boston Housing Authority / Leading the Way Home (LTWH)**

- LTWH is a partnership between DHCD and the Boston Housing Authority (BHA).
- BHA has made available 500 Housing Choice Vouchers (also known as “Section 8 vouchers”) to families in Emergency Assistance shelter who were Boston residents prior to entering shelter.
- Families must be found eligible for the Housing Choice Voucher Program by BHA.
- Families found eligible will receive permanent affordable housing through the BHA along with 18 months of stabilization services funded by DHCD.